



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 143**

February Session, 2006

\* SB00143HS 032106 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES  
FOR THE BLIND.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) There is established an  
2 advisory council to monitor the activities of the Board of Education  
3 and Services for the Blind in carrying out its mission and statutorily  
4 prescribed duties to provide quality educational and rehabilitative  
5 services to all persons in the state who are legally blind or deaf-blind  
6 and to all children in the state who are visually impaired.

7 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
9 who is a person with expertise in special education;

10 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
11 is a representative of a blind consumer group;

12 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
13 Representatives, who is an adult with blindness, who has received  
14 services from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind;

15 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is the  
16 parent of a child receiving services from the Board of Education and

17 Services for the Blind;

18 (5) Two appointed by the Governor; and

19 (6) The president of the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, or the  
20 president's designee.

21 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subsection (b) of  
22 this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

23 (d) All appointments to the council shall be made not later than  
24 November 1, 2006.

25 (e) The Governor shall schedule the first meeting of the council,  
26 which shall be held not later than January 1, 2007. The chairperson of  
27 the council shall be elected from among the members of the council at  
28 the first meeting of the council. The council shall meet at least  
29 quarterly at such times and places as the chairperson designates and  
30 may meet at any other time upon the call of its chairperson or at the  
31 request of two members. Any appointed member who, without good  
32 cause, fails to attend three consecutive council meetings or fifty per  
33 cent of all meetings held in a calendar year shall be deemed to have  
34 resigned. A majority of the members appointed to the council shall  
35 constitute a quorum.

36 (f) The council shall monitor the activities of the Board of Education  
37 and Services for the Blind regarding the agency's compliance with the  
38 benchmarks and recommendations set by the monitoring council  
39 established pursuant to section 3 of public act 03-217 and offer  
40 recommended adjustments to the benchmarks when deemed  
41 necessary.

42 (g) Not later than February 15, 2008, and annually thereafter until its  
43 termination as provided in this subsection, the council shall submit a  
44 report on its activities, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
45 4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint standing  
46 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

47 relating to human services, education and appropriations and the  
48 budgets of state agencies and the Office of Policy and Management.  
49 The council shall continue to meet as provided in this section until  
50 such time as the majority of council members determine that the Board  
51 of Education and Services for the Blind is in compliance with the  
52 benchmarks set by the monitoring council established pursuant to  
53 section 3 of public act 03-217. At such time the council shall submit a  
54 final report on its activities in accordance with the provisions of this  
55 subsection.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                 |             |
| Section 1   | October 1, 2006 | New section |

**HS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*